

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TOM BUGNITZ ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Tom Bugnitz and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. For over 20 years, Tom was a proud resident of Colorado where he dedicated his career to helping manufacturing businesses and their people be and do better.

Most recently, Tom led Manufacturers Edge, a non-profit that positioned itself as the “go to” resource for the manufacturing industry in Colorado. Under Tom’s leadership, Manufacturers Edge built a strong team of dedicated professionals and developed an extensive portfolio of services—all while dealing with economic uncertainty amid the COVID–19 pandemic.

Tom’s inspirational leadership in manufacturing, however, is not confined only to Colorado state lines. Tom was instrumental in forming the Center Leadership Team (CLT) for the National Institute of the Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program that developed and deployed cybersecurity services to manufacturers across the United States. Additionally, as the MEP Center Director for Colorado, Tom mentored, inspired, and supported other Center Directors across the country while working to ensure the voice of Colorado manufacturers were heard by local, state, and federal lawmakers.

Throughout Tom’s career he has been a champion for small- and medium-sized manufacturers both in Colorado and across the country. Further, his coworkers attest that through hard work, integrity, and a genuine passion for making an impact on those around him, Tom changed the staff of Manufacturer’s Edge from a group of people who work together to a family united behind the same mission—to grow and strengthen the Colorado manufacturing community.

Tom’s contributions to the community, the manufacturing industry, and those around him have been enormous. I congratulate Tom Bugnitz on his retirement and thank him for his service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes. Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 209, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 826 Divided Families Reunification Act, I would have voted Yea.

KIWANIS CLUB OF WHEAT RIDGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kiwanis Club of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the 2021 Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award is given to an organization in Wheat Ridge which has gone above and beyond in the name of service to the Wheat Ridge community. Kiwanis International is a nonprofit organization that partakes in volunteer opportunities all around the world. Their chapter in Wheat Ridge has shown amazing commitment and leadership to our community at a time when they were needed the most.

Congratulations to the Kiwanis Club of Wheat Ridge for receiving this award and I thank them for their contributions to our community.

HONORING ANN AWALT

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a key leader and transformative figure in South Texas, Ann Awalt. Ann has over four decades of first-hand experience in developing rural community service systems and has dedicated her time and leadership to the people of South Texas. Her service and passion for her work is reflected in the lasting impact she has had on TX–34 communities and families.

Ann Awalt is a South Texas native, where she attended The University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Government. She went on to develop several rural service systems, including the Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST) and its network of resources. Ann then attended graduate school at The University of Texas at Arlington and graduated with a Master of Public Administration.

Ann is now the Executive Director of CACOST, which serves South Texans in 17 counties by providing an integrated range of health and human services. The network includes federally qualified health centers, child and family development services through Head Start and Early Childhood Intervention, and community services for nutrition, housing, and energy assistance.

In 2013, Ann strongly advocated for the funding of Head Start, a federally subsidized program that provides traditionally underserved children from birth through age five,

with meals, educational programs, and other services to build a solid foundation as these children head into their school years. In 2020, over 4,200 children benefited from Head Start programs in TX–34. The program also includes senior nutritional services, which provide elderly residents home-delivered meals; and last year served nearly 16,000 persons through their Federally Qualified Health Center and assisted over 13,000 persons with utility assistance. Her hands-on leadership and commitment to her community has helped CACOST secure funding from contracts and grants at the federal and state levels, including those available through the Head Start model, which have enriched the lives of seniors, children and families.

This past year, Ann led the Community Action Agency’s response efforts to the challenges from the COVID–19 pandemic. Alongside a team of medical experts, she set up six clinics around the Coastal Bend to provide life-saving vaccines and COVID–19 tests for the region. Her perseverance led to over 22,000 vaccinations administered by CACOST. Ann’s collaboration with community partners in the Coastal Bend ensure that these vital health and nutritional services will continue to be available to those living throughout South Texas. Ann also represents South Texas as a member of the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, serving on both the Executive Committee and the Legislative Committee.

Ann Awalt is truly a pillar of determination who exemplifies selfless service and dedication to her community. She continues to foster growth and action, while advocating for the people who need it most. It is clear that Ann Awalt is deeply invested in the people of South Texas and we cannot thank her enough for her service.

HONORING BRANDON ELEMEN- TARY SCHOOL FOR NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON RECOGNITION

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools for their progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups and for their overall academic excellence. This year, 325 public and private schools across the country were awarded the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona.

I am proud to announce that Brandon Elementary School was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. Brandon Elementary School’s hard work in closing the achievement gap demonstrates that all students can achieve high academic levels. I am thankful for Brandon Elementary School’s efforts, as I believe the education of our youth, the future

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.